

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MS. POLLOCK, ATTY. CLARK, DR. FINNERTY, DR. FLETCHER, MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. SHEA, DR. LARKIN, MRS. DALY, DR. CARRIGO, MS. COSTA, MRS. BROWN, MRS. MOURAO

Student representative, Adam Vieira, was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Matters related to outstanding litigation
- Union Negotiations Update

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Atty. Clark – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty - Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 -Absent

At 7:15 P.M., the Committee reconvened to Open Meeting.

Mayor Mitchell introduced Michael Shea – Acting/Interim Superintendent for New Bedford Public Schools. Mr. Shea reported on his preliminary assessment of the district's challenges. He indicated that on the positive end that the District has a great, supportive staff and a good partnership with the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). The District recently submitted the Turnaround Plan for review and that monthly highlight meetings continue with Mr. Davies, Ms. Perdue, and the District Management Council.

Mr. Shea's concerns include a few personnel issues, building and maintenance issues district-wide and the Technology Department which is lacking equipment and software. He would like to see technology increased in all schools. Due to lack of funding, the administrative team is working hard on the budget and looking for other ways to get these issues resolved. He further indicated that the attendance rate at New Bedford High School needs to be addressed.

Dr. Fletcher spoke of the maintenance issues that still exist at Gomes School. He also suggested hiring a Public Relations person for the District.

Ms. Pollock would like to see improvements made to the ELL Program.

Mr. Livramento would like to see improvements made in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Atty. Clark encouraged Mr. Shea to make tough, bold choices and act on those not doing their jobs. He would also like to see more of a focus on tutoring district-wide.

The student representative expressed his concern for the drop-out and suspension rates.

Mayor Mitchell indicated that Mr. Shea has to power to make the decisions to move this district forward. Mr. Shea is here to restore the public's confidence in New Bedford High School as it is with Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. The Mayor also updated the Committee on the progress with the Superintendent search. He stated that Dr. Mohler-Faria has reached out to DESE for guidance to see if we can hire a search firm to support our efforts. Mayor Mitchell said that this search will take as long as necessary.

Regarding the FY13 budget, some adjustments had been made and the new amount to be resolved is \$880,000. Business Manager Brown asked if the City Council could help with this deficit. Mayor Mitchell indicated that he had asked the City Council for \$1 million for the New Bedford Public Schools but would still like for us to look for other places in our budget to cut.

At 8:05 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the special meeting.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Shea", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael R. Shea
Acting/Interim Superintendent
Acting Secretary/School Committee

MRS/csm